

**New Hampshire Department of Education's  
Analysis of Select Data Sets from  
the New England Secondary School Consortium's  
Common Data Project's 2014 Reported Data**

**High School Graduation  
Postsecondary Enrollment  
and College Readiness**

December 17, 2014

New Hampshire Department of Education  
Office of the Deputy Commissioner  
101 Pleasant Street  
Concord NH 03301

The New England Secondary School Consortium (NESSC) brings together state leaders and educators from the states of Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Vermont.

The Consortium has adopted **Four Goals**:

- Increase high school graduation rates across each of our five states.
- Decrease the annual high school dropout rate.
- Increase the percentage of students enrolling in two- and four-year college degree programs or pursuing accredited, industry-certified postsecondary certificates.
- Increase the percentage of students who graduate from high school prepared to succeed in college.

and together they pursue three overarching strategies:

**Policy:** Advancing a state-led policy agenda focused on three critical, high-leverage areas of schooling in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: proficiency-based graduation decisions, personalized learning pathways, and more effective accountability systems.

**Practice:** Connecting and supporting practicing educators across our states through networking activities, best-practice exchange, and the League of Innovative Schools.

**Public Will:** Strengthening public understanding of innovative approaches to educating today's students.

NESSC has recently made its first release of data from the five states. It has published *Common Data Project Annual Reports* for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years. Over the past five years the NESSC Data Team has developed shared data definitions and compiled a substantial amount of data, only some of which appears in the two annual reports.

The New Hampshire Department of Education has prepared four additional tables using NESSC data. The first table below is based on the same data New Hampshire uses for its annual graduation report. The other three tables are data not previously reported by New Hampshire. Two of the tables (2 and 3) use data sets not included in the NESSC annual data reports. Each table includes an analysis from a New Hampshire perspective. If you have questions about these tables please contact [sallie.fellows@doe.nh.gov](mailto:sallie.fellows@doe.nh.gov).

You can find a link to this report at <http://www.education.nh.gov/data/nessc-reports.htm> . Other New Hampshire data reports are at <http://www.education.nh.gov/data/index.htm> .

More information about the NESSC, including links to NESSC annual data reports, can be found at [http://www.education.nh.gov/spotlight/ne\\_secondary.htm](http://www.education.nh.gov/spotlight/ne_secondary.htm) .

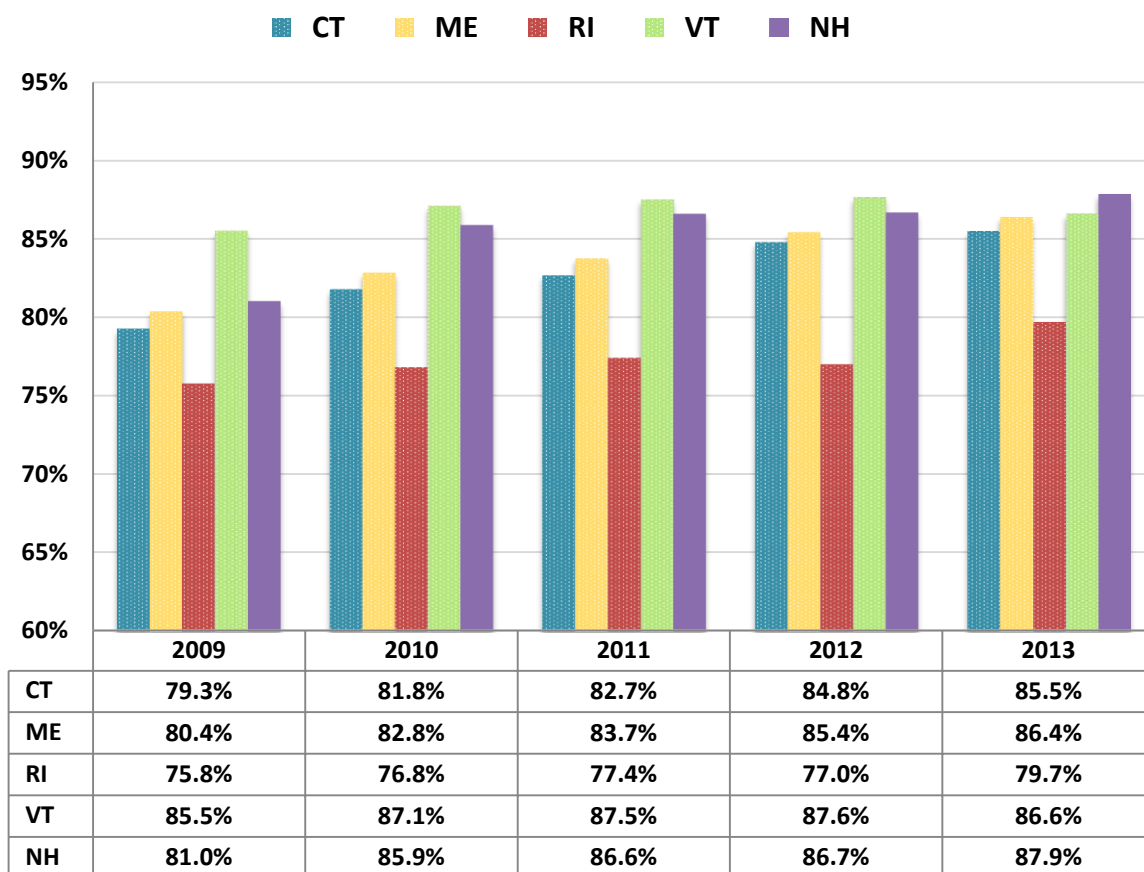
Sincerely,



Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.

Commissioner of Education

## On-Time Graduation Rates: All Students



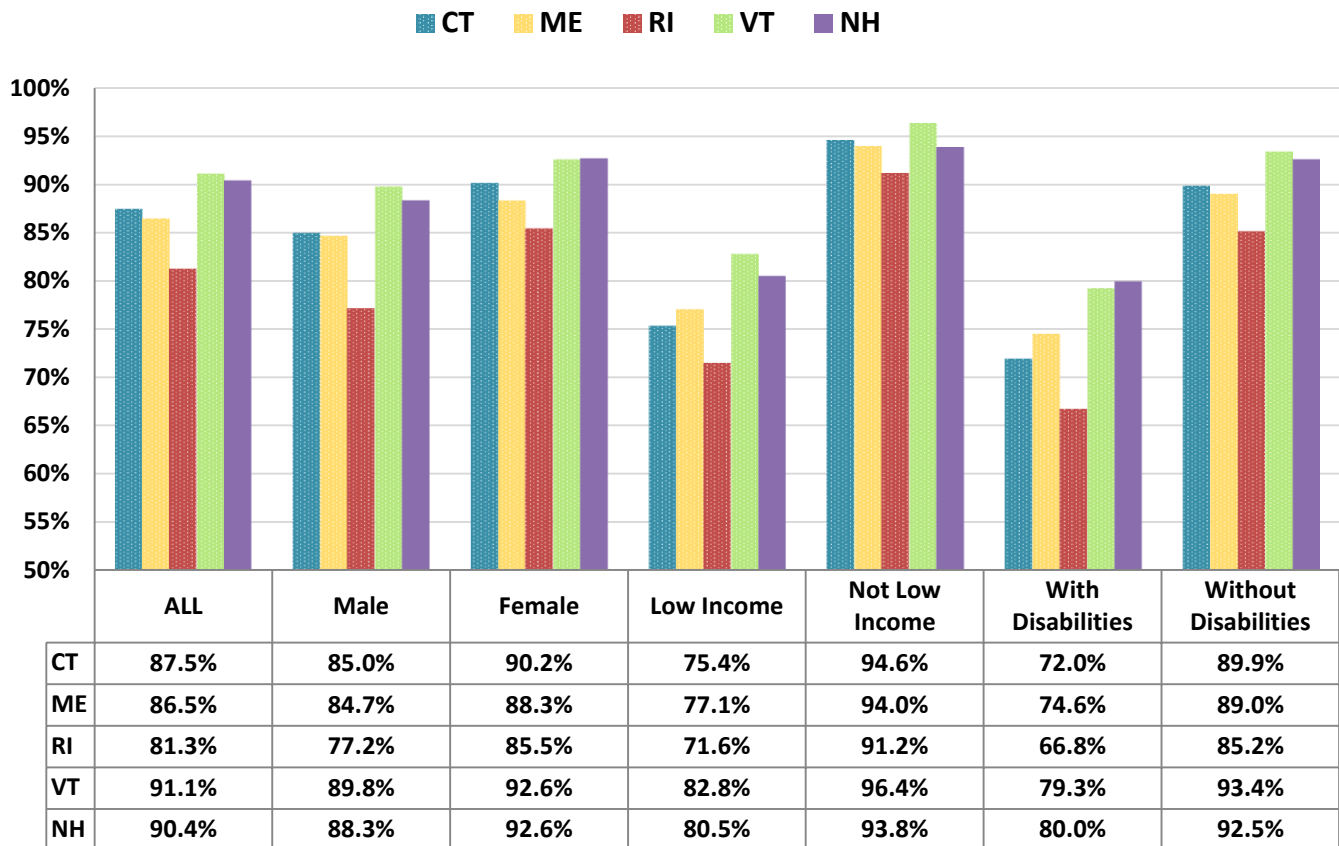
**Table 1**

*On-time graduation means earning a standard high school diploma within 4 years. This definition does not count students who earn a GED or an alternative credential requiring less than the state's minimum course and achievement requirements for a standard diploma. Also, on-time does not count students who earn a standard diploma but need a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> year to do so.*

- Over the past 5 years, all NESSC states have seen an increase in the on-time graduation rate. Percentage increases ranged from 1.1% to 6.9%.
- 2013 rates ranged from 79.7% to 87.9%.
- From 2009 through 2012, NH's rate was second only to VT. In 2013, NH had the highest rate.
- NH's graduation rate improved dramatically from 2009 to 2010. This coincides with implementation of dropout legislation passed in 2007. The dropout age was raised from 16 to 18. Sixteen and seventeen year olds uncomfortable with the traditional high school program now have individualized plans which utilize educational learning objectives leading to either a regular diploma or a GED.

Notes: This is the same data NH publishes in its annual graduation report.

## Percentage of Students Entering High School in the Fall of 2007(Class of 2011) and Graduating Within 6 Years



*Table 2*

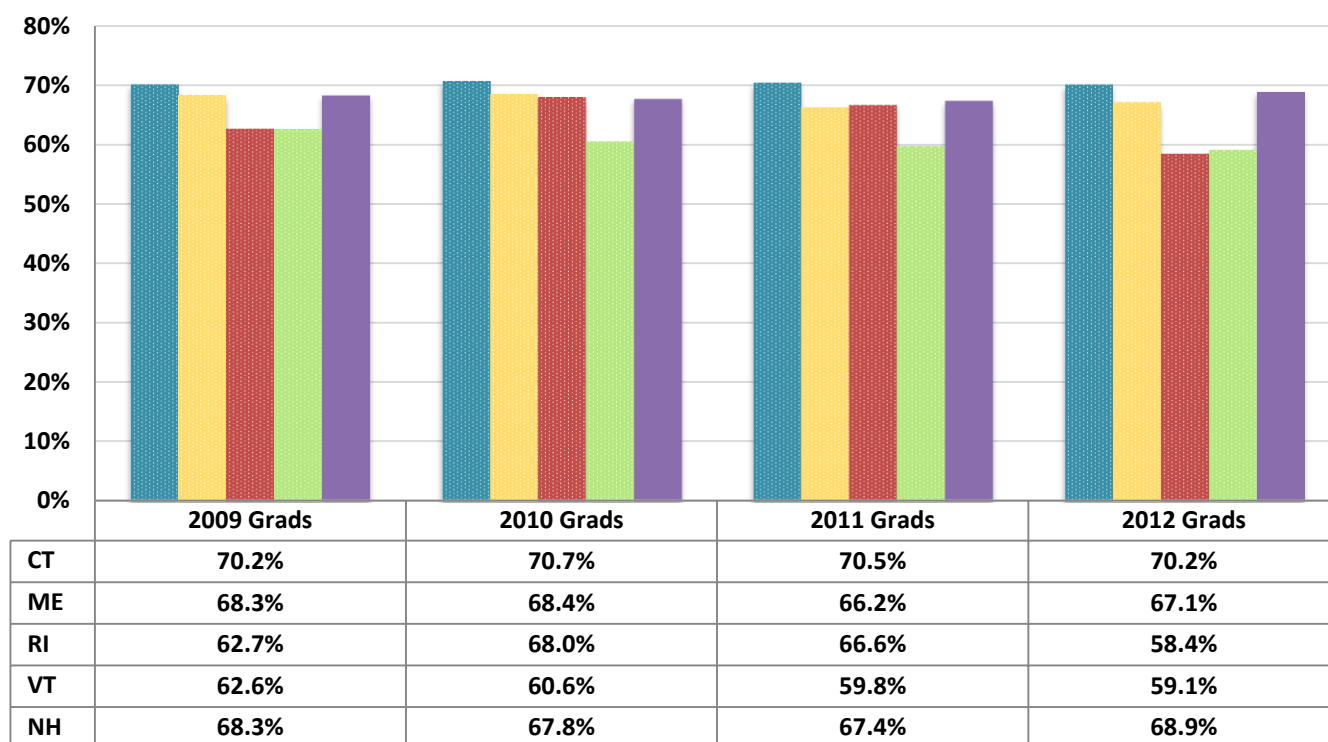
*Graduation means earning a standard high school diploma. This definition does not count students who earn a GED or an alternative credential requiring less than the state's minimum course and achievement requirements for a standard diploma. This chart includes all students who earned a high school diploma, including students who needed a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> year to do so.*

- Not all students who graduate from high school do so within 4 years.
- When students that graduated in their 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> year are added to on-time graduates, the graduation rates increase. For ALL Students, the increases were: CT 4.8%, ME 4.5%, RI 3.9%, VT 3.6%, and NH 3.8%.
- For Students with Disabilities, the increases were: CT 4.8%, ME 8.4%, RI 3.9%, VT 3.6%, and NH 3.8%.
- VT had the highest rate for ALL Students and all the sub-groups.
- NH ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the Not Low Income sub-group. In all other categories, NH tied VT or was a very close second.

Notes: CT data is graduation within 5 years. Within 6 years data was not available.

## Postsecondary Enrollment Within 2 Years of High School Graduation: All Students

■ CT   ■ ME   ■ RI   ■ VT   ■ NH

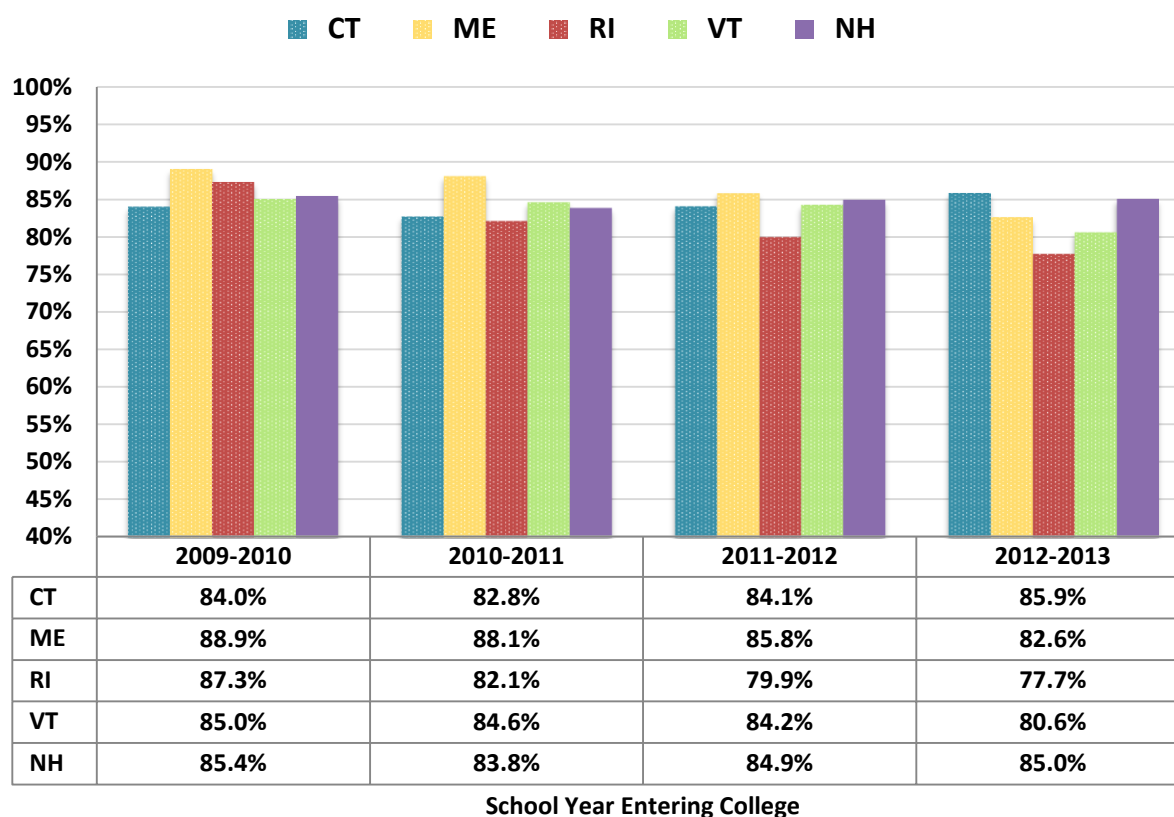


**Table 3**

*The NESSC Consortium Data Group uses the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) to identify students enrolled in 2-year and 4-year postsecondary institutions. While not all 2 and 4-year schools supply NSC with enrollment data, those that do account for 98% of this student population. NSC employs a propriety algorithm that uses name, date of birth, and other variables (when available) to verify enrollment.*

- The percentages reported include students enrolled in 2-year and 4-year institutions as full-time, half-time or part-time students, for at least 10 days.
- Since the NSC matching algorithm is not 100% effective, and not all colleges participate, the percentages shown should be considered the minimum. Actual rates may be higher.
- Students that enroll in programs lasting less than 2 years are not included because there is no data source that can be used to verify enrollment. Students that enlist in the armed services are not included. These two categories account for an estimated 6%-7% of New Hampshire graduates. (Source: NH's Completers by Category report.)
- There was no significant change to the rates in 3 years. The economic downturn may be a contributing factor.

### College Ready: All Students (Continuous college enrollment through 1st semester of the 2nd year.)



**Table 4**

*The NESSC Data Team identified the following measure as an indicator of College Readiness for students attending 2-year and 4-year postsecondary institutions.*

Completion of 24 credit hours of college coursework and a GPA of 2.5 OR enrollment in the third semester of college.

- While credit and GPA data is not available, NESSC is able to use the National Student Clearinghouse to identify the number of students still enrolled at the beginning of their second year. For example, a student entering as a freshman in the fall of 2010 who is still enrolled in the fall of 2011 is assumed to have adequately prepared for college.
- The graph on the previous page, *Postsecondary Enrollment Within 2 Years of High School Graduation*, shows the percentage of students enrolling in 2-year and 4-year institutions. This graph shows the percentage of students that attempted college and were still enrolled more than a year later.
- The percentages shown should be considered a minimum. A break in enrollment can be for financial or personal reasons, not necessarily a lack of preparation.
- For all states, the persistence rate dropped in the second year shown. This coincides with a downturn in the economy. Only CT has recovered to the 2009-2010 level.